Peter Skutches
Richard Gallen & Co.,
260 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10001

2/7/95

Dear Peter,

Raphaela wrote me that the second part of copy-edited NEVER AGAIN! would be mailed last Thursday or Friday. It has not come yet. I answered what questions the copy editor asked to Jennifer Prior immediately. I cannot now retrieve citations from what I had to have moved to the basement because it has not been safe for my wife or me to go there for months. Most related to the page numbers of the quotes from JAMA of which I did use the dates of issue. With regard to the accuracy of those quotes, in almost all instances I used xeroxes of what I quoted rather than my own typing. So there should be no errors in them. With that part already sent to the printer I did not read what I was sent. I used the tabs the copy editor so thoughtfully put on the pages in which she was interested. I'll do that with what is yet to reach me. Much faster and I preumume there is a rush.

There remains the question of pictures.

I have no separate records that are now accessible to me of some of what I sent to Diane. As my immobility increased I kept some at my desk. They indicate that I sent three pictures of the front of the shirt, the collarband, two of the knot of the tie, b & w and color and of enhancements of the tie actually done for me at the Pentagon.

I regard the shirt and tie pictures as essential, the enhancements less so. I have color NEGATIVES of the enhancements I did not send. These had caption information. If I did not send a print of FBI Exhibit 60, I have it in the basement and part of it should be used, the part that shows how clear a picture of the staged picture of the tie knot the FBI had and did not give the Commission. The Commission Exhibit, 395, does not reflect even the very clear pattern of the tie. I have a color slide of the exhibit, not the FBI Report Exhibit but the one it gave the Commission. As I believe the caption info. I sent indicates, the Archives photographer told me that the FBI employed all its not inconsiderable skill to make what it gave the Commission so incompetent and unclear. To make it as close to meaningless as evidence as it could. If I did not send the b & w print of the FBI Report Exhibit 60, I believe very strongly it should be used and because it is easy to find in the overflowing basement I can get someone to retrieve it for me. I know the file and file drawer in which it is. In combination these should be quite impressive.

Aside from what I sent Diana, of which I now have no recollection, there are pictures I believe I intended for Case Open. These all relate to the shooting and I hope will be used. I sent Herman a picture of curtains being hung in Oswald's 1026 Beckley room, confirming what the Dallas police said he told them, that he had curtainrods with him, not the rifle, when he went to work the morning of the assassination. I know that was for the

book that was eliminated from Case Open, where I used disproving Posner's prosecution-type brief for a defense exculpation of him from the official evidence only. I think that if this and others do not directly relate to the text of NEVER AGAIN! they ~~will~~ can be used with a caption indicating that they relate to what JAMA omitted because they are in various ways exculpatory of Oswald.

I did send the pictures of the impact on the curbstone and showing that it had been patched when that was impossible for Oswald and indicating that those who pulled the job had motives to hide bullet traces that could not be associated with his rifle or alleged shooting, those bullets.

I do not know now whether I sent pictures of the rifle as found, showing that it was impossible for Oswald to have hidden it, placed it so carefully under overlapping book cartons, in his allaged flight. The official time reconstruction proved that he could not have been at that sixth floor window and gotten to where he was seen by the policeman and building manager before he got there. And that reconstruction eliminated ~~his~~ any time at all for his putting the rifle anywhere. As you may remember, if you read the MS of Case Open, the rifle was so well hidden it was missed on a number of searches. I also have a clearer picture of this than the Archives had from the book of a nephew of a Dallas policeman who had stolen copies of their pictures. Instead of giving me a copy of the picture, he had a photographer take a picture of the page of the book. The moire that would appear if used as it is can be easily eliminated by the offset camera. I've done that often. No problem at all and it takes little time. He also sent me 35mm negatives of that picture. If as I'd like it is used, I can send these in addition to whatever I sent, what he gave me with permission to use it, and the official Commission exhibit picture.

If there are any questions, please ask them as soon as you can and I'll respond as soon as I can. We are no longer snowed in but the weather is such I should not be out in it. Neighbors bring the papers and mail to me and mail what I have to mail.

It is a pleasant surprise that I continue to get mail and calls about Case Open, the most flattering mail I've ever gotten. I think they also reflect a change in the market for assassination books, by age and by attitude. Even a color painting, a ~~comtage~~ montage around a painting of me by a college senior who'd never seen me. He brought it from Connecticut when he graduated last May, framed. We have it on a wall. Had so many requests for copies I had to have them made.

It may interest you, singular or plural, to know that the assistant to the executive director of the new board to see to it that all assassination records are disclosed wanted what was eliminated from Case Open for both understanding of the case and as clues to what remains withheld. I loaned him the disks and he has the printout. If it is the same as the printout Raphaela sent me it is not quite complete but I think it will serve his pur-

poses. My impression is that they intend the same with NEVER AGAIN! I've also given them copies of records not in either book they can use that way, but I was restricted in this to what is in my office.

It would perhaps be helpful if I am told approximately when NEVER AGAIN! will be in the stores. Case Open has attracted interest in it. Before Raphaela sent me a page from the catalogue (a copy of which I'll appreciate) so I could make copies of it I had to write perhaps a hundred letters about it telling people I did not know when it would appear. Andy at The Last Hurrah bookstore told us he had many calls and visits about it. Visits! I sent him that page and I make copies now and include them in all my mail.

And all this without a review or a single newspaper mention!

Best wishes,

Harold